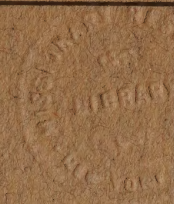


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# **“Some Early Exploring Expeditions and Travels in South Africa”**

A LECTURE DELIVERED ON  
THE 31st MARCH, 1916, AT  
THE QUARTERLY MEETING  
OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUB

—By—

**C. GRAHAM BOTHA**  
of the Cape Archives.

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CAPE TIMES LIMITED,  
CAPE TOWN.





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## PREFACE.

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THE limited time for an evening's lecture did not permit me going too deeply into a subject such as the title indicates. I have tried, however, to cover a long period and bring out the salient points of some of the principal journeys undertaken in the days of the Dutch. I have not touched on the journeys of shipwrecked parties, of which there were both Dutch and Portuguese. The materials from which my information has been drawn give scope for dealing with the subject in different ways, such as a study of the different native tribes or from a philological point of view. I have treated it more from a geographical standpoint and have endeavoured to show the gradual opening up of the north-western and south-eastern portions of the Colony. The different place names recorded in the journals have been mentioned so that an idea may be formed of the age and origin of some of our South African places. To give easy reference to the routes taken, a map has been added. I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to the Surveyor-General, Cape Town, for having this map drawn by one of his staff.

The material for my lecture has been taken from the Journal or "Day Register," which each party was obliged to keep. Besides the Dutch originals and copies in the Cape Archives, English translations of the very early ones will be found in "Moodie's Records" and Leibbrandt's "Précis of the Archives." The journeys of Beutler, 1752, and van Plettenberg, 1778, which are in the Archives, have been published *verbatim* in Dr. Theal's "Belangryke Historische Dokumenten," vols. 1 and 2. The trip of Hop was published at Amsterdam in 1778 under the title of "Dagverhaal gehouden op een Landtogt door het Land der Kleine en Groote Namaquas." There is no copy of v.d. Stel's trip in the Cape Archives. I have made use of Valentyn's "Beschrijving van Oost Indien," vol. 5. Moodie, in his Records, has given an abridged translation of this, and refers the reader for the full text to Valentyn. A translation of

portion of the Journal is published in the *South African Quarterly Journal*, 1830, vol. 1. de Mist, in his Report on the Cape, 1802, refers to v.d. Stel's Journal, and says, "the original, accompanied with 72 drawings, had already at the end of the 17th century been taken out of the Cape books and disappeared." These must have been returned, for both the Journal and 72 drawings are to-day in the Hague Archives. (Reference K.A. 3999 for 1686.) Among the annexures to a letter of the 20th April, 1686, from the Cape Government to High Commissioner van Rheede are this Journal and 3 charts. The following unpublished manuscripts have also been referred to: Journey in 1659, another by O. Bergh in 1682, 1683, and the declaration of Jacobus Coetsee regarding his travel in 1760 across the Orange River.

C. G. B.

# Some Early Exploring Expeditions and Travels in South Africa.

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Sir James Alexander, when he wrote a description of his expedition of discovery into the interior of Africa in 1836, said, "It is remarkable that during the three centuries and a half which have elapsed since the celebrated Portuguese navigator, Bartolomeo Diaz, first doubled the 'Cape of Storms,' the progress of discovery should have advanced so slowly, that, up to this day the whole of the western region of Southern Africa, has hitherto remained comparatively a blank in our maps. The Great Fish River, supposed to extend upwards of three hundred miles from north to south, and said to receive, both from the eastward and from the westward, more than twenty tributaries, was only indicated by a dotted line, of the range and height of the mountains, and elevated plains near it, no trace existed, and of their logical structure and general features, we were utterly ignorant."\* Notwithstanding this statement a great portion of the north-western part of this country had been explored and traversed by the white man from the early days of the Colony's history. Amongst the first settlers were many imbued with the spirit of adventure and the undertaking hazardous trips into an unknown land and among hostile natives. There was never a want for volunteers to penetrate into unknown country, whether it was to barter cattle from the natives for the Dutch East India Company, or to add to geographical knowledge.

I propose to give a brief account of the exploits of some of these explorers and travellers up to about the end of the 18th century, and to show the gradual opening up of the country, paying special attention to place names, their situation and history. The information has been taken from the official journals kept by the various parties, and preserved in the Cape Archives. I have not ventured to touch on the journeys undertaken by such well known travellers as Sparman, Thunberg and Patterson. How often do we not inquire as to the origin of the name of a place, when it was so called and by whom. The question arouses sometimes interest, but often no reply can be given or tradition plays a great share in

giving the answer. The Rev. Charles Pettman, in his "Notes on South African Place Names," has given us a list of place names, derived from the Hottentot, native, Portuguese, Dutch, and English languages, from the fauna and flora and many other sources. In a few instances he gives the approximate date when some were so first called, and the task of giving this information to the remainder would have no doubt entailed great labour, time, and patience. I thought, therefore, that, while showing the courses taken by the explorers, it would serve some useful purpose in referring to the place names mentioned in their journals. Many of these names were temporary or are no more to be found on a modern map, or have been subsequently altered.

## THE GABLE MOUNTAINS.

Who would think of associating the Gable Mountains with the Twelve Apostles which run along the coast to Hout Bay, yet we read that in 1657 the natives were allowed to graze their cattle between the Lion's Head and Hout Bay along the Gable Mountains (Gevel-Bergen). In many instances it is almost impossible to state when a place first received its name, the only period one can note is the date when it first appears in the records.

Many places in South Africa bear the same name they were given centuries ago, many of these names refer to events which took place at the time of naming them, many have historical associations, and many refer to general conditions of the country. The origin of many places is familiar to most of us, e.g., Stellenbosch, named in 1679 after Commander Simon van der Stel; Drakenstein, called by the same in 1687, after the High Commissioner Hendrik Adriaan van Rhee, Lord of Mydrecht; and Hottentots Holland, called so by the natives, who said the place was *their* Holland or Fatherland; Swellendam, named in 1745 after Governor Swellengrebel. Some old people would still speak of Zwartland when they referred to the dis-

\* "An Expedition of Discovery into the Interior of Africa." Sir James Alexander, London, 1838.



trict of Malmesbury, and would also remember that the village of Durbanville was formerly known as Pampoenkraal, and who is there who could not tell that Woodstock was Papendorp, called after a burgher, Van Papendorp.

In the majority of the older districts of the Cape Province will be found some hill or eminence called Kanonberg. This name has reference to the practice of placing a signal cannon on some high point and fired off in case it was necessary to warn the inhabitants of the inland villages of the approach of an enemy at Cape Town or surroundings. Immediately upon hearing this signal the burgher militia hurried to their various posts to await orders. One often wonders why place names are sometimes altered without an inquiry being made as to the origin and history attached to the first names they received. Let me give just one illustration of this. Not long ago a friend told me that he heard of such a change of name, and gave me the traditional facts which had given its first name. I searched the official records and found that they bore out his statements completely. The following is the story. When the Dutch occupied the Cape between 1803 and 1806 a burgher commando was called out to capture a number of native deserters from the Hottentot Corps. One young man from the Swellendam district displayed great bravery in the execution of his duty and was killed. As a reward for his daring the Government granted to his parents a farm free of rent for the remainder of their lives. The Council of Policy, in making the gift, resolved that the Governor (General Janssens) should himself give the place an appropriate name, having some reference to the brave deed. It was also ordered that an account of this act of valour was to be read to the Dutch army when on parade, from the pulpits in the country churches, and was also to appear in the General Army Orders. Until recently this farm bore the name given by the Dutch Governor.

#### FIRST ACQUAINTANCE WITH THE MOUNTAIN.

I doubt whether some of us give enough credit and praise for what some of the early pioneers of this country have done, whether it was while fighting the natives or exploring the country by land or sea. Do we fully realise the dangers and inconveniences experienced by those hardy and daring men who opened up the country bit by bit and added to our geographical knowledge? The first arrivals were not many months here when they began climbing the surrounding hills and searching the forests around Table Mountain, which latter they ascended on April 29, 1652. The ascent is described as difficult and the top of the mountain flat with some pools of water. Now let us direct our attention to the explorers and travellers and their achievements. The object in mentioning so many of the place names touched at by the travel-

lers has been to facilitate reference to the map, upon which the routes can be easily traced. The official map of South Africa compiled in 1895 by the Surveyor-General is a good one to consult. For the first couple of years after Van Riebeeck's arrival little was known of the country beyond the first range of mountains, except the existence of natives with whom the Commander was anxious to open a friendly communication and induce to come to the fort to trade. To achieve this it was decided in 1655 to send out a party of seven volunteers under the command of Jan Wintervogel, the first Dutch explorer to go inwards. He was a man of great experience in exploration work; he had been a captain of the Brazilians in Brazil, which country he had explored as far as the South Sea, and had helped to discover a silver mine. The party got about 50 miles (Dutch) inland, where they met Bushmen of a diminutive size. The next party, in the same year, under Corpl. Willem Muller, travelled along the sand dunes of False Bay and reached beyond what is now Cape Hangklip. Nothing of geographical importance was achieved.

1657.—Two years after a party of 15 Europeans and four Hottentots under Abraham Gabbemba, Fiscal and Secretary to the Council of Policy, was sent to barter with the natives for cattle and endeavour to trade with them. The Surveyor Pieter Potter, who accompanied them, was instructed to draw a chart of the route showing the valleys, mountains and hills and rivers, and to inquire what sort of wood and stone there was for building purposes.

#### HIPPOPOTAMI AT THE PAARL.

The expedition passed Tigerberg, and the third day after passing Klapmuts came upon a river which they called the Groot Berg Rivier, which they followed along up to the upper end of the Paarl Mountain, or as it is called in the journal, Diamandt en Peerlbergh. In the river they caught barbels something like the Dutch pike and saw many hippopotami. After carrying on some trade with the natives the party returned home. Following shortly after this it was decided in 1658 to send another party under one of the members of the Government, Sergeant Jan van Harwarden and fifteen men and two Hottentots. He was to inquire for ivory, ostrich feathers, gold, precious stones, and the names of the native tribes. The Surveyor Potter was to keep a journal and make geographical notes. On the fourth day they passed the Paarl Mountain on their right, and arrived at the Berg River, which they followed for some time, and then crossed over and came to a range of mountains which run parallel to the coast. Potter, three men, and two natives were sent out to ascertain if the range could be crossed. Following to the west of this



range, they came upon what is now known as the Klein Berg River, which they followed through what was afterwards the Roodezand's Kloof (Tulbagh). They climbed a mountain and looked down upon a plain, "four days' journey broad." This was the Tulbagh basin, and they were the first white men to look down upon that stretch of country.\* They returned to the main body of travellers, who now began to return homewards, as an illness amongst some of the men had caused them to become weak and unable to proceed farther. The party lost two of their number by death.

1659.—The Supreme Authorities in Holland were now anxious to have the country explored, to find out what prospects there would be to open a trade in the interior. The Commander had heard from the interpreter Eva some wonderful stories of the Namaquas, who lived in stone houses and could be reached in twenty or thirty days. They had churches, so he was told, and had slaves to do their work. Seven burgher volunteers offered their services to go to these people. They were promised rewards for any discoveries they made, and were provided with provisions and two of the best pack oxen.

#### IN THE DARLING DISTRICT.

The party must have gone due north, passing through the sites of Mamre and Darling, and then followed north-east and then west. After suffering greatly from thirst, they reached the Berg River, not far from where it empties itself into St. Helena Bay, and returned to the fort without adding much knowledge about the interior. The next party, sent out in 1660, managed to get a greater distance northwards. "Twelve fine, strapping, and courageous men," under Jan Danckert, set out on the 12th November, 1660. Amongst their number were two men whose names appear frequently in the later records, Pieter van Meerhof, of Copenhagen, a surgeon, who later on went with several of the expeditions to the north of the country. In 1667 he was appointed Head of a trading expedition to Madagascar and the south-east coast of Africa. At Antongil Bay, when going ashore to see what trade could be done, he and his party were murdered by the natives. The other was George Frederick Wreede, a young German student, who had joined the Dutch East India Coy and had made a study of the Hottentot language, and prepared a vocabulary of Dutch and Hottentot words. He subsequently became Commander of Mauritius, where he was drowned in 1672. The explorers travelled through the Paarl district, and ten days after starting took a north-westerly course towards a mountain, "up which we had to carry our baggage, as our cattle had enough to do to ascend without being burdened." On the sixth of the following month the journalist

records that "I believe this is the kingdom of the moles, for the country here is so undermined that we were obliged to follow the rhinoceros paths, otherwise we sink away to our knees in the sand." It is probable that the party crossed over what is now Picquenier's Kloof, reaching shortly after a river flowing from south to north. Here they saw a herd of between two to three hundred elephants, and called it the Oliphants Rivier. Leaving Van Meerhof and five comrades here, Danckert and the remainder pushed northwards along the river, which he says in his journal he "firmly believes that this Elephants River must be the Great River (i.e., the Orange River of to-day), marked on the chart." They must have reached a spot somewhere in the direction of the site of Clanwilliam.

#### AT RIEBEECK KASTEEL.

1661. Within a fortnight after the return of Danckert and his followers another party, under Pieter Cruythoff, travelled in the same direction. Van Meerhof, who was second in command, kept the journal. They passed Riebeeck Kasteel, which they named. Here large game was found in abundance. Crossing over the Berg River they came to a river which they called the Klein Berg Rivier. This was evidently not far from where it joins the Berg River. A few days later they arrived at "Castle Meerhof" (Casteel Meerhof), a round mountain lying on a mountain range like a castle, and seen from a very great distance. Not far from here, says the journalist, "is a suitable passage over the mountain towards the Oliphants River, which we made use of in 1660." The party must have travelled along the western side of the Oliphants River Mountains and come to what is now known as Picqueniers Kloof. The natives told them the best way to reach the Namaquas was to follow the Oliphants River on the other side of the kloof. Van Meerhof, four men and a Hottentot, set out over the mountain and followed the river in a northerly direction. A monstrous animal, with three heads, like three cats' heads, and three long tails, was seen in the river, so the journalist records. After travelling several days they came across some Namaquas, whom Van Meerhof describes. In the same year a party under the command of Pieter van Meerhof reached a distance a little further north, probably Meerhof's Kasteel, mentioned in some of the later journals, and situated in the Van Rhyn's Dorp district. The next two expeditions under Pieter Everaë and Jonas de la Guerre did not add much to the knowledge of that part of the country.

1682.—In 1681 some Namaquas visited the Castle and brought with them some copper ore. The authorities in Holland were desirous of knowing more of that part of the country, where it was stated this mineral was to be found. The Cape Commander was instructed to have the country explored, and with this object in view sent a

\* See further on.

party under Ensign Olof Bergh, in October, 1682. Bergh does not appear to have taken the usual route through the Paarl and along the Berg River, but to have kept closer to the western coast. He passed through Groene Kloof and the present site of Mamre (both in Malmesbury district). Travelling along the Zout Rivier, a tributary to the Berg, after crossing the latter he went through the Piquetberg district and on to Clanwilliam. In the present Van Rhyn's Dorp district he touched at Meerhofs Kasteel, and came to the Doorn Bosch Rivier. From the Oliphants River northwards, the country was arid and almost waterless which made it impossible for the party to go further, so they returned. Next year Bergh was again sent out. The party included draughtsmen, miners, and journalists. Amongst those who accompanied Bergh was an apothecary, Hendrik Claudius, of Breslau, who was good at drawing and painting animals and plants, and was instructed to keep a journal of the people met, animals and plants seen, and other occurrences. The expedition was well fitted out and provisioned for four months. Bergh took the party via Riebeeck's Kasteel and along the Berg River, but within two months was back at the Castle without any result of note. He reached latitude 30 deg. 12 min. S.

#### A TRIP TO NAMAQUALAND.

1685.—In 1685, High Commissioner Van Rheeде gave Commander Simon van der Stel permission to undertake a trip to Namaqualand, to examine the copper mountains, from where it was believed the natives got their ore. The train which set out on August 25, 1685, consisted of a calash or open carriage drawn by six horses, seven wagons, each drawn by eight oxen, eight carts, horses and eight mules, a boat for crossing the Berg and Oliphant Rivers, and two small cannon to impress the natives with respect for the white man.

There were also six wagons belonging to the burghers, who were to go with the party so far as the Oliphants River. The Commander had three slaves as personal attendants, and was accompanied by fifty-six Europeans, a Macassar prisoner of state, with a slave attendant, drivers and leaders, and several Hottentots as interpreters. Amongst the Europeans was Claudius, who had been with Bergh, and on this trip he made a number of coloured drawings, some of which are still extant. The caravan travelled along the Berg River, which the journal says derived its name from the fact that its source commenced among the mountains. They passed Sonquas Drift (Malmesbury district), but did not cross the Berg here, and went north, arriving at the Twenty-four Rivers, so called on account of its twenty-four sources. The party climbed the Honigsberg (Malmesbury), named because of the honey found there. It took two days to cross the Berg River at Misverstand Drift (Malmesbury). Here they

found a high smelling herb growing in abundance, known in Holland as *parcy*, chibbal or cibol. When near Piquetberg an incident occurred which gave a place name. A rhinoceros sprang out and charged the carriage in which Van der Stel was travelling. The Commander had time to spring out, but was followed by the animal, which received a bullet from one of the party. It turned its attention to a party of horsemen, who leapt from their saddles. The beast rushed away, followed by a volley of shots. This place was in consequence named Rhenoster Rug. Shortly after an eland, weighing one thousand pounds (Dutch), was shot, and the place called Eland's Kraal. The following mountains were passed Kanariberg, Uilenberg, and Dassenberg, the last two so called on account of the many owls and rock rabbits or *dassies* found there. The train crossed over the Picqueniers Kloof, the ascent was easy, but going down on the other side very dangerous on account of the height and steepness of the rocks. Coming to the Oliphants River they found in it a fish like a carp, which tasted like the Dutch salmon, and about the size of an ordinary cabeljouw. Along the river grew willows and thorn trees of unusual size, and bearing fruit like the Turkish bean. The burghers who had been with the expedition thus far obtained permission to return home and to load their wagons with the flesh of the eland, rhinoceros, and hippopotamus.

#### AT OLIPHANTS RIVER.

Three days were occupied in getting to the other side of the Oliphants River, and here they found a great number of quails, which the Hottentots dexterously knocked down with their *kerries*. They passed the Baviaansberg (Clanwilliam), so named on account of the number of baboons living in the caves. This mountain is situated to the west of the present site of Clanwilliam. Following the windings of the Oliphants River, the train arrived on September 20 at Bakkeley Plaats, not far from the mouth of the river, and now in the Van Rhyn's Dorp district. During a recent visit to this district I was informed by several of the inhabitants that the traditional story attached to Bakkeley Plaats is that in the very early days a fight ensued between the natives and Dutch, and that a peace was concluded at the place Vredendal, a little to the east along the river. Here the camp rested for four days, during which period the Commander endeavoured to reconcile some of the natives who had quarrelled among themselves. Continuing their march, the name Goede Hoop was given to a place where water had been found, and which had not been discovered before. Six days later they arrived at Meerhofs Kasteel, which had been named after the early traveller, Van Meerhof. This would appear to be the second



place of that name, the first being near Picqueniers Kloof. Here they found a large cave, having a natural archway as an entrance. Going north-west, they came to the Klein Doornbosch Rivier, called so on account of the mimosa trees which grew along the banks. They were greatly plagued by a kind of blind fly with a yellow and black body, and which stung both man and beast. The Hottentots informed them that these flies were found until the *goudsblom* (marigold) began to fade, when they disappeared. By October 30 Keer Weder was reached. This place had received its name because former travellers had been obliged to turn back on account of the mountain which could not be crossed, and they did not know the route, which the natives would not point out. A week's camp here gave an opportunity to make inquiries regarding the surroundings and getting in touch with the natives. A ten days' march from here brought them to the place they had intended to reach, namely, the Copper Mountain. Here a camp was pitched, and during the next fortnight prospecting for minerals was in full swing. Copper ore was found after blasting operations had been carried on for some time, and a fortnight was spent here. At the same time Van der Stel had the surrounding country explored. The camp was struck on November 5, and the party set out to examine the country between the mountains and sea.\* On December 12 the homeward journey was begun, and the Castle was reached on January 26, 1686.

### THE TULBAGH BASIN.

1699.—In 1699 Governor Wilhelm Adriaan van der Stel, with a few officials, made a tour inland to inspect the stations of the Company. They kept on the downward course of the Berg River and came to the Obiqua Mountains and crossed over the Roodezand Kloof, "which is merely a steep pass going over the Obiqua Mountains." Here the Governor came to what is now the Tulbagh basin, first seen by the Europeans in 1658, and to which he gave the name of "t Land van Waveren," in honour of an Amsterdam family. The range of mountains enclosing the basin on the eastern side he called "Witsenberg," after Nicolaas Witsen, Burgomaster of Amsterdam and a director of the Dutch East India Company. van der Stel decided to settle some emigrants here and set up cattle breeding which would be advantageous to the Company.

1760.—Little more attention seems to have been paid to the north-western part of the Cape until in 1760 when a farmer, Jacobus Coetsee, Jan son, living at Piquetberg, obtained permission to hunt elephants. He set out with a wagon and twelve Hot-

tentots, and travelling north, passed the Copper Mountain, arriving at the Groot River,† now known as the Orange River, so called by Col. Robert Jacob Gordon in 1779. It was believed that this river had never been forded before by white men. Coetsee and his followers crossed over to the other side, and followed a river which he called Leeuwen Rivier, on account of the number of lions found there; then he came to what is now Warmbad. A few days' journey from here he shot two animals, the names of which he did not know, but from his description were giraffes, probably the first seen by Europeans there. Journeying north-east, he came to what is now Rietfontein, and was now fifty days' journey from his farm; from here he returned home. To him must be given the credit of being amongst the first white men to reach as far north as this. Upon his exploits coming to the notice of the Government through Hendrik Hop, Captain of the Stellenbosch Burgher Cavalry, a farmer living in the Paarl district, the latter offered his services to lead a party of volunteers to explore the country in the direction of the river crossed by Coetsee. This was accepted, and the Government gave what assistance it could. The services of the following officials were placed at the disposal of the expedition, Surveyor Carel Fredrik Brink, to draw a map of the route and keep a journal; the Botanist Jan Andries Augue, Superintendent of the Company's Gardens, and the Surgeon Carel Christoffel Rykvoet, a mineralogist. Thirteen Colonists volunteered, amongst them were well-known South African names as Coetsee, Roos, Joubert, Heyns, Kruger, Marais, Badenhorst, Greeff and Van Niekerk. Fifteen wagons, each drawn by a span of ten oxen, and sixty-eight half-breeds accompanied the party.

### A NOTABLE JOURNEY.

It was arranged that all were to meet at Koekenaap, known to the Dutch as Bakoven, a place found on an official map of 1876 as Roodeheuvel, not far from Ebenezer, near the mouth of the Oliphants River. The three Government officials set out from the Castle on July 16, 1761, with three wagons, lent by the authorities. They do not appear to have gone over Picqueniers Kloof, but after passing the Berg River to have kept straight on, and passed Hot Kruis, Berg Vallei, Lange Vallei, and Brandenburg, places now in the Clanwilliam district. On August 1 they came to Heeren Logement (Van Ryn's Dorp District), where there is a cave, in which are rocks with the names of many earlier travellers carved thereon. The whole caravan set out from Bakoven on August 16, and on the 29th of the following month crossed the Groot

\* On the 8th December, 1685, the party came to the river called by the natives Touse, so named as some Bushmen had seen two Buffaloes on its banks. At first the Dutch called it Zand Rivier, but from this time it was named Buffels Rivier.

† Called by the natives Eyn, by the Dutch Vigiti Magna and later Groot Rivier.

Rivier or Orange River of to-day. They evidently forded it at what is now Houtm Ford, for the same course was followed which Coetsee had taken, i.e., along the Leeuwen Rivier, and now called the Houtm Rivier. On October 5, not far from Warmbad (at one time known as Nesbitt's Bath, and again as Warmbad) they saw their first giraffe, and within a week were at Rietfontein. Coetsee (the original traveller) and another, Marais, were sent on ahead to explore and ascertain particulars of the country. They returned on December 2 and reported that they had come to the Fish River, but found little water in it, the natives having to dig pits to obtain water. Here they ascertained particulars of the native tribes living further on. They were described as being blacker than the Namaquas, lived in wooden huts, carried on agriculture, and grew tobacco. These were known as Damroequas. They also obtained facts about a nation called the Briquas or Berinas (Bechuanaland). The main body had reached latitude  $26^{\circ} 18'$  South, and from here turned back for home, which they reached on 27 April, 1762.

#### ANOTHER PART OF S.A.

In 1667 a party had travelled to the east of the Colony, about fourteen days from the Castle, crossing over the Hottentots Holland Mountains. The following year a yacht was sent out to examine the east coast, but only got a little beyond Mossel Bay, where it had to return on account of the heavy south-east wind. At Mossel Bay a party under Hieronimus Cruse landed and marched overland to the Castle. For the first time a tribe, called the Attaquas was met, which Cruse says was similar to the Hottentots. They lived between Mossel Bay and what is now the town of George.

So far attention has been drawn to the opening up of the north-western portion of the country, which by now was becoming to be well known. In 1687, living beyond what is now the George district were the most distant Hottentot tribe known as the Outeniqua. As the result of visits by a representative of one of the distant tribes in the east and the sending of gifts, an invitation was extended to the white man to enter into a friendly alliance with them and do some trade. The Government resolved to send out a party under Ensign Isaac Schryver. He left the Castle on January 4, 1689 and was accompanied by twenty-one Europeans and some Hottentots. The course they followed took them through the present sites of Caledon, Swellendam and Heidelberg. They passed De Kuilen (now Kuils River), one of the Company's posts, and crossed over the Hottentots Holland mountains. After fording the Palmiet River, they were obliged to halt at Knoflock's Kraal to repair one of the wagons. Travelling in a north-easterly direction, they passed Houw Hoek, Bot Rivier, and the Zwart Rivier (all in the Caledon district). Following the Rivier Zonder End,

they touched at Tyger Hoek (Caledon), and next day were rounding the Hessequas Kloof (Swellendam), and rested at Ganse Kraal. On the 21st January they had crossed the Gouritz River, on the banks of which they saw large and thick acacia trees growing. By the 28th they had passed the Lange Kloof, which they named, and had taken four days to travel through. Going north, they must have crossed what is now Montagu Pass; after which they forded the Kammatie and Oliphant Rivers, and came to the present site of Oudtshoorn. Farther on they passed over what is now the Zwartberg Mountain, and on the 2nd February came to a place they called Verwallen Kasteel, for beyond the Kaluiga Rivier was a high mountain, divided by a long and crooked kloof. Here they interviewed the natives, and it was as far as they got. The exact position is difficult to locate to-day.

#### WHERE AN EAST INDIAMAN WENT ASHORE.

In 1734 farmers were living as far as Mossel Bay. In this year an East Indianman went ashore there, and a farmer, Esais Meyer, living near to Mossel Bay, rode post haste to the Castle, to inform the authorities of this. He took seven days, and changed only fifteen times. For this he was rewarded with a grant of land in freehold. The Governor, Jan de la Fontaine, and a party set out overland for the scene of the wreck. The route was evidently well known by this time. Up to 1752 little was known of the situation of the interior of the Colony, the disposition of the inhabitants, or whether they were willing to trade with the Europeans. The last farm occupied by Europeans was not far from Mossel Bay. The Government decided to fit out an expedition to explore the east of the Colony, and find out information regarding the natives, and whether a trade could not be opened with them. Ensign August Fredrik Beutler was placed in charge. Carel Albrecht Haupt was appointed journalist, the Surveyor Carel David Wentzel was to make a chart and together with Pieter Clement, to take astronomical observations. Included in the party was a botanist and a surgeon, Jan Hendrik van Ellewee. They had eleven wagons for transport and a boat to cross the rivers.

Beutler and his party left on March 29, 1752, and a few days after crossed the Gouritz River. Here they met a half-famished French sailor, who said he belonged to a party sent on shore at Algoa Bay to fetch water. Their boat was swamped, and their vessel sailed away. He had been travelling along the coast for thirty-four days. At the farm of Esais Engelbregt Meyer, at Mossel Bay, the expedition was joined by the officer of the swamped boat; he told them he did not know what had become of the remainder



of the crew. After crossing the Klein Brak River, Hagel Kraal, the last farm inhabited by whites, was reached. They camped at the foot of the Attaqua Kloof, which they climbed with great difficulty, taking three days to get over the mountain. The wagons had to be steadied by ropes for fear of toppling over. They passed the Saffraan and Moeras Rivers, and later on the Quaggas River, named by them as a Quagga had been shot there. By April 17 Keurboms River was passed, and a halt was called at Mordenaars River. It received its name from the fact that the Hottentots murdered a deserter on the banks of the river a few years previous. The Lange Kloof, a narrow valley running between two ranges of mountains, was passed through. They were now not far from the sea, and at the mouth of the Kabeljous River, a beacon, bearing the monogram of the Company was put up on an island at the mouth of the river. Proceeding east the Gamtoos River was reached, and crossed by boat, and three days later they came to the Galgenbosch. This name they gave because on one of the trees they saw several names carved out, above which was the figure of a gallows, cut out by some later elephant hunter. The Zwartkops River was reached by the 13th May, and here they found the broken boat of the wrecked French seaman. On an eminence at the mouth of the river (the Baaken River) the usual beacon was erected, showing the possession taken by the Dutch East India Company. Keeping eastwards, the party passed in succession the Sunday and Fish Rivers, and on June 5 reached the Keiskama, which was looked upon as the boundary between the Bantu and Hottentot tribes. The travellers caused much astonishment to the natives when they demonstrated how their pipes could be lit by means of the sun's rays and a magnifying glass. The journal gives a full description of the dress, manners, and customs of the natives. Nearly a fortnight later the Buffels River was reached, and on July 3 they came to a ford of the Kei River. From here they journeyed in a north-easterly direction for a week, when it was decided to return home. The party passed the Tyumie, Kat, Koonap, Baviaans, Tarka, and Fish Rivers. Along the latter rock paintings by the natives were seen.

#### ACCOUNT OF LAST TRIP.

I have now come to the last trip taken to the Eastern part of the Colony. The frontier farmers complained to the Government of the depredations caused by the natives, and a petition was sent in 1778 to the Governor praying that a Court of Landdrost and Heemraden and a church be established on the Eastern frontier. Governor van Plettenberg decided to visit the border himself and ascertain the condition of affairs. He left Cape Town with his party on September 3, 1778. At this time

an attempt was being made to construct a road through Du Toit's Kloof, so as to connect Drakenstein with those living at Goudini and Hex River, and which would have cut off two days' journey. The route taken was along the Roodezand's and Hex River Kloofs. On the 5th they arrived at the farm of Philip Myburgh at the Chavonnes Mountain (Worcester). Passing through Hex River Pass, they rested at what is now Hex River Station, and by the 10th had begun to enter the Karoo. Previous to this they met Captain Robert Jacob Gordon, who was to accompany the Governor. De Straat, not far from Triangle Station, and so named on account of its evenness, was followed. Pieter Meintjes, not far from Matjesfontein, was passed, the route took them over the Dwyka River, into what is now the Prince Albert district, they touched at Queek Valley. The Traka and Kouka Rivers were forded, and Zoetendals Valley (all in district of Willowmore), where the Zwartberg Range terminates, was passed. Going through the present district of Aberdeen after travelling through the Beeren Vallei, the party took their course past the Karee and Zwart Rivers and Tweefontein. The Sneeuwbergen were crossed at Cephannes Poort, and on the other side was the Plettenberg's Rivier (now the Zeekoe or Seacow) where elands, quaggas, gnus, and other large game were met. On the *kuilen* of the river twenty hippopotami were shot in one day. Passing through the Hanover and Colesberg districts on October 4, the Governor put up a beacon with the year 1778, the Company's monogram, his arms and name engraved thereon. This marked the furthest point reached, and the north-eastern limit of the Colony. The beacon was put up not far from the banks of the river, and the present site of Colesberg, such portion of it as still remains is now in the South African Museum. Not far off in the mountains was a peak resembling a Mohammedan mosque, and which they named the Mosque.

#### WHERE GRAAFF-REINET NOW STANDS.

The travellers returned over the Sneeuwbergen the same way and stayed two days, not far from the present site of Graaff-Reinet. At the farm of Christiaan Opperman were seen Bushmen paintings, discovered ten years previously. Passing through the present site of Pearston, Bruintjes Hoogte was reached, and from here they went to the place of Willem Prinsloo, on the Little Fish River, the site of the present Somerset East. Taking a southward course they passed the farm Camdaga (Commadagga), Bushman's River, until Zwartkops was reached. Going now westward, they were on a familiar route. The train then went through what are now the sites of Humansdorp, Haarlem, and

Avontuur. The Outeniquas were crossed at Duivelskop, in the George district, and the party came to Knysna, and further on to Plettenberg Bay. A stone slab was erected here, on which was carved the Governor's arms, the monogram of the Company, and the fact that Van Plettenberg had put it up. A fine replica of this can be seen in the Museum. The bay, formerly known as Content Bay, was given the name of Plettenberg Bay. Retracing their steps they passed Melkhout Kraal, Buffels Vermaak, along the lakes and through what is now George, and so on to Mossel Bay.

I have now given a brief account of some of the early expeditions in the Cape Colony, and have endeavoured to show how much of the Cape Colony and its inhabitants was known before the close of the 18th century. Other parts had also been examined, for instance, Walvisch Bay (or as written now, Walfish Bay), was taken possession of by the Dutch in 1793. At Delagoa, the Dutch had a station for some years during the 18th century. Of such parts as what are now the Orange Free State, Transvaal, Bechuanaland, and Rhodesia, little or nothing was known.



